

THE INVENTION CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer-implemented method of secure installation of vendor's software patches on client's systems, comprising the steps of:
  - determining which of said software patches should be applied to said client's systems
  - collecting said software patches from said vendors by downloading them from said vendor's ftp sites
  - distributing said software patches to said client's systems
  - installing said software patches
2. The computer-implemented method of secure installation of vendor's software patches on client's systems of claim 1, include steps of:
  - determining which software patches should be applied to said client's systems
  - collecting said software patches from said vendors by downloading them from said vendor's ftp sites
  - distributing said software patches to said client's systems
  - Interpreting which files will be affected by the installation of said software patches
  - interpreting which directories will be affected by the installation of said software patches
  - installing said software patches



- interpreting how much memory and disk space is needed to install said software patches
- interpreting dependencies on other layered products
- installing said software patches

5. The computer-implemented method of secure installation of vendor's software patches on client's systems of claim 1, include steps of:

- determining which software patches should be or should have been applied to said client's systems
- collecting said software patches from said vendors by downloading them from said vendor's ftp sites
- distributing said software patches to said client's systems
- interpreting the operating system type, version and architecture said software patches apply to
- interpreting which files and directories are affected by the installation of said software patches
- interpreting how much memory and disk space is needed to install said software patches
- interpreting dependencies on other layered products
- installing said software patches
- backing-out said software patches that have been applied to said client's systems

6. A computer-implemented method of secure distribution of vendor's upgrades and patches to client's systems, comprising:
  - determining which of vendor's upgrades and patches have been applied to client's systems
  - determining which said software upgrades and patches should be or should have been applied to said clients systems
7. The computer-implemented method of secure distribution of vendor's upgrades and patches of claim 6, include:
  - collection of said patches and upgrades from said vendor's and downloading said patches and upgrades to client systems
8. The computer-implemented method of secure distribution of vendor's upgrades and patches of claim 7, include the step of:
  - interpreting the operating system type
9. The computer-implemented method of secure distribution of vendor's upgrades and patches of claim 7, include the step of:
  - interpreting the operating system version
10. The computer-implemented method of secure distribution of vendor's upgrades and patches of claim 7, include the step of:
  - interpreting the operating system architecture the patch applies to
11. The computer-implemented method of secure distribution of vendor's upgrades and patches of claim 7, include the step of:

- determining how much memory is needed to install said patch and upgrades

12. The computer-implemented method of secure distribution of vendor's upgrades and patches of claim 7, include the step of:

- determining how dependencies on other layered products affect the installation of said patches and upgrades

13. The computer-implemented method of secure distribution of vendor's upgrades and patches of claim 7, include the step of:

- determining how dependencies on other patches, or software upgrades affect the installation of a patch

14. The computer-implemented method of secure distribution of vendor's upgrades and patches of claim 7, include the step of:

- determining how dependencies on other software upgrades affect the installation of a patch

15. The computer-implemented method of secure distribution of vendor's upgrades and patches of claim 7, include the step of:

- determining which files will be affected by the installation of a patch

16. The computer-implemented method of secure distribution of vendor's upgrades and patches of claim 7, include the step of:

- determining which directories will be affected by the installation of a patch

17. The computer-implemented method of secure distribution of vendor's upgrades and patches of claim 7, include the step of:

- Checking the permissions and ownership of the files referenced in the patch and ensuring that the system software is authentic

17. The computer-implemented method of secure distribution of vendor's upgrades and patches of claim 7, include the step of: